

## **FORM 1**

### **Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

#### **1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Form 2) Yes \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) **Inventory Source:** \_ BLM Rawlins FO 1979 Wilderness Inventory Hard Copy Files \_

b) **Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408. Hand drawn on 2006 Rawlins, WY 1:100,000 Surface Management Status map

d) **BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):** Rawlins Field Office

#### **2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:**

Mixed ownership between BLM, State, and private. Almost all federal land is leased for oil and gas. Contains many oil and gas drilling operations, and producing fields. Many miles of fence, many reservoirs, improved springs, and wells. Permanent improvements and many miles of bladed roads preclude the area from possessing wilderness qualities. Other human activity includes hunting, livestock grazing, management activities. Several ROWs granted for oil and gas pipelines, powerlines; uranium claims in large portion of unit. Complex in vegetation and topography. Primary plant associations are sagebrush, salt brush, greasewood, and forest cover. Variable topography ranges from steep rugged hills and rims to flat/gently rolling bottom land. The 1979 unit evaluation for Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408 concludes that the area “obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness.”

Inventory Source: \_1979 Initial Inventory (Hard Copy File)

<b>Area #/Name</b>	<b>Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)</b>	<b>Naturalness? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Yes/No</b>
Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408	Yes (375,000 acres)	No	No	No	No
Sage Creek Basin West WYO-030-17N87W7-11	No – see Form 2	No – see Form 2	No – see Form 2	No – see Form 2	Yes – see Form 2

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name: **Sage Creek Basin West – WYO-030-17N87W7-11**, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408 Acreage: 6,735

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☐ No ☒ X ☐

The unit is bound on the southwest by Carbon County Road (CR) 505W; the east boundary is CR 505E; the southeast boundary is CR 503. The north boundary is the north boundary of T17N 87W. BLM land ownership to the north of the boundary is in the checkerboard pattern. A desktop inventory in May 2011 identified these major road and ownership boundaries and calculated the unit size at 6,735 acres. Field verification was performed by Drew Stoll and Mark Newby (AECOM) from July 21-23, 2011. The types of routes were determined to meet the definition of Wilderness Inventory Roads, and thereby divided the area into 4 sub-units. The 4 sub-units range in size from 43 – 4,524 acres as shown in Table 1.

<b>TABLE 1. SAGE CREEK BASIN WEST UNIT SUBDIVIDED BY WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROADS</b>	
<b>SUB-UNIT NAME</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
Sage Creek Basin West 01	800
Sage Creek Basin West 02	1,369
Sage Creek Basin West 03	43
Sage Creek Basin West 04	4,524

The subunits contain the following townships, respectively:

<b>Sage Creek Basin West Subunit #1</b>		
<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>SECTIONS</b>
t17n	r88w	18
t17n	r89w	12
t17n	r88w	7
t17n	r88w	6
t17n	r89w	1
<b>Sage Creek Basin West Subunit #2</b>		
<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>SECTIONS</b>
t17n	r88w	17
t17n	r88w	18
t17n	r88w	8
t17n	r88w	7
t17n	r88w	5
t17n	r88w	6
<b>Sage Creek Basin West Subunit #3</b>	r88w	31
<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>SECTIONS</b>
t17n	r88w	17
t17n	r88w	8
<b>Sage Creek Basin West Subunit #4</b>		
<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>SECTIONS</b>
t16n	r88w	4
t16n	r88w	5
t17n	r88w	34
t17n	r88w	33
t17n	r88w	32
t17n	r88w	31
t17n	r88w	28
t17n	r88w	29
t17n	r89w	25
t17n	r88w	30
t17n	r88w	21
t17n	r88w	20
t17n	r89w	24
t17n	r88w	19
t17n	r88w	17
t17n	r88w	18
t17n	r88w	8

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: This unit consists entirely of public land in the Rawlins FO. Several Wyoming Game and Fish Department parcels occur within and adjacent to the unit and comprise the Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The Muddy Creek drainage occupies the north part of the unit. The terrain rises in elevation south to the Continental Divide, ranging from approximately 7,900 (Muddy Creek) to 8,400 feet (divide) above mean sea level. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit, and Wet Meadow cover along Muddy Creek. The primary land use is livestock grazing. Dispersed recreation activities include hunting, sightseeing, and motorized and non-motorized use of the Continental Divide Trail, which forms part of the unit boundary on CR 505W (also part of BLM Road 3306). Permanent improvements include three reservoirs (Aspen Pit, Beaver Dam, and Pine Grove Reservoir 1), and two groups of range wells (Sage Creek Well #1 (3 wells) in the southeast part of unit and Sage Creek Well #2 (2 wells) along CR 505E). Range wells have metal cases and windmills, and sometimes are powered by solar panels. Two abandoned mine sites (uranium) lie along CR 505E. Rock cairns are in the southern ridgepoints, documented in the Centennial archeology report. Fences as well as meteorological towers exist, but neither limits the long-term wilderness character as ranching is a compatible activity and met towers are considered a temporary land use.

See also Sage Creek Basin West photolog and GPS data.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number:** \_Sage Creek Basin West WYO-030-17N87W7-11\_

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

\_\_ X \_\_ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by:

Team members:

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### Reviewed by:

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_